

## **E-Teacher – Online Teacher Training Courses**

Every year, the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion provides scholarships for online teacher training courses. These courses are offered by U.S. Department of State, under the E-teacher Scholarship Program: English Teacher Professional Development Distance Learning Program.

The courses introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

The “E-Teacher” program is designed improve the quality of English language teaching throughout the world. Participants are professional English language teachers who receive instruction in the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, while also being introduced to American educational values. Participants use innovative distance learning technology and have access to U.S. experts with whom they might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

The courses last 10 or 12 weeks, and they begin in different times of the year (US fall, winter, spring and summer)

- Fall: October - December
- Winter: January - March
- Spring: March - June
- Summer: June - August

The courses are the following:

- [Building Teaching Skills through the Interactive Web](#)
- [Critical Thinking in the EFL Curriculum](#)
- [English for Specific Purposes \(ESP\) Best Practices](#)
- [English as a Foreign Language \(EFL\) Assessment](#)
- [Methods Course I: Survey of Best Practices in TESOL](#)
- [Methods Course II: Developing EFL Literacy through Project-Based Learning](#)
- [Teaching English to Young Learners \(TEYL\)](#)

Annually the courses are offered to approximately 500 English teaching professionals worldwide, from whom 26 are selected to participate in a three-week professional development workshop that takes place in the U.S. sometime between June and August. The workshop component provides incentive for the participants to work hard and complete the courses.

The U.S government pays for tuition and the cost of any course materials sent from the institution, including CD-ROMs and books, for each participant.

## REQUIREMENTS

Important note: Candidates interested in this scholarship should make sure that they meet the following requirements:

- Level of English necessary for a typical university-level course at American universities
- Regular and dependable access to the Internet
- Commitment to spend the necessary 10-15 hours/week throughout the 10-week course until the completion of the course

A great deal of initiative and discipline are required to complete a distance learning course in advanced topics such as these. The candidates should be teacher trainers or teachers who are working, or plan to work, with one of the subjects covered by the courses. They should be highly motivated individuals who are dedicated both to their own professional development and to **sharing the knowledge gained with colleagues through workshops or professional presentations**. In addition, candidates should meet the following criteria:

### English language skills:

- ability to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a minimum TOEFL score of 550 or IBT score of 79-80);
- general understanding of technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet;
- good command of the necessary vocabulary for the topic of the course for which the candidate is nominated.

### Computer fundamentals:

- regular access to e-mail and the Internet;
- ability to navigate in Windows or other appropriate programs and create a Word document;
- basic familiarity with the Internet and web browsers;
- ability to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

### Feedback / signing up for follow up activities / joining State Alumni:

--Teachers who participate in this program are required to report and provide feedback to the Embassy about the course and at the end of the course, an evaluation is required to inform about what they have learned and how they plan to apply the knowledge.

--Since one of the objectives of this program is to share the knowledge, participants are required to sign up for follow up activities such as conducting workshops or presentations for other English teachers at their institutions, PARATESOL, APIP, at the American Corner in San Lorenzo (CCPA). At least one workshop or presentation should be conducted by the participant and the Embassy needs to be informed on date, time and audience.

--By participating in the E-teacher Scholarship Program, participants are State Alumni and therefore they are invited to join the State Alumni Web Site. Once we have the final winners we will inform about the easy steps to register in the State Alumni.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

People interested in participating in one online course or in nominating a teacher from an institution needs to submit the following information to the U.S. Embassy by e-mail to [escribac@state.gov](mailto:escribac@state.gov) by Monday, July 25:

- a. **Candidate Last Name**
- b. **First Name**
- c. **Gender**
- d. **Country**
- e. **Course Choice (one per candidate)**
- f. **Current Teaching Position**
- g. **Candidate's Institution Name**
- h. **Primary E-mail Address**
- i. **Secondary E-mail Address**
- j. **Home phone**
- k. **Work phone**
- l. **Cell phone**
- m. **Address**
- n. **City**
- o. **A two- or three-sentence justification for why this candidate is an excellent candidate**
- p. **Commitment to do workshops to train other teachers upon completion of the course and to inform the Embassy on them.**
- q. **Curriculum Vitae**